

I sent to Gen'l Pickett⁶³ an application for leave of absence on 16th. of last month, and expected every day to receive it and go home, until the 24th., when we received marching orders. I had been sick for more than two weeks previous, suffering a good deal from attack of dysentery, and inflammation [*sic*] of bowels, but had got well enough to go on the march. We returned to Camp yesterday, after one of the hardest marches that I have ever been on. We left on 25th. Feb., and proceeded to Murphy's Station, on Seaboard and Roanoke R.R., three miles this side of Franklin. Our expedition consisted of 24th., 25th., 49th., & 56th. Reg'ts N.C., Pegram's⁶⁴

⁶³ George Edward Pickett (1825-1875), of Virginia, graduated from West Point in 1846 last in a class of fifty-nine. Brevetted twice for his actions in the Mexican War, he served on the Texas frontier and in Washington Territory from 1849 to 1861. He earned the commendation of the United States for holding San Juan Island in Puget Sound until joint occupation arrangements could be made, despite British threats. When he reached Richmond in 1861, he was made colonel and assigned to duty on the lower Rappahannock. Promoted to brigadier general in February, 1862, he led a brigade in the Peninsula campaign with such dash and courage that it earned the sobriquet "the Gamecock brigade." Pickett was severely wounded at Gaines's Mill and did not return to arms until after Lee's first Maryland campaign. After being promoted to major general, he commanded Lee's center at Fredericksburg and served creditably with Longstreet in the Suffolk campaign. The high mark of Pickett's career came on the third day of Gettysburg when, at Longstreet's command, a part of his division gallantly but vainly sought to break the Union center. Ironically, he formed the troops but did not lead "Pickett's Charge." Neither Pickett nor his division was ever the same. After commanding the Department of North Carolina and Virginia for some months, he was ordered back to Virginia in time to contain Butler at Bermuda Hundred before retiring to the trenches before Petersburg. He fought in the retreat from Petersburg and surrendered at Appomattox. Returning to civilian life, he refused a commission in the Egyptian army and President Grant's offer of a United States marshalship, preferring instead to accept the Virginia agency of the Washington Life Insurance Company of New York. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIV, 570-571; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 651-652; Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray, Lives of the Confederate Commanders* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959), 239-240, hereinafter cited as Warner, *Generals in Gray*.

⁶⁴ John Pegram (1832-1865), of Petersburg, Virginia, graduated from West Point in 1854 and prior to 1861 served the old army routinely. He resigned in May, 1861, and entered the Confederate army as a lieutenant colonel. He took part in the Rich Mountain campaign of 1861 and was captured by McClellan. After his return to the army Pegram was promoted to colonel and was chief engineer on the staffs of the generals Beauregard and Bragg during much of 1862. Chief of staff under Kirby Smith during the invasion of Kentucky, Pegram was appointed brigadier general in November, 1862, and given a brigade of cavalry. He fought at Murfreesboro and Chickamauga. He was subsequently transferred to the Army of Northern Virginia to command an infantry brigade under Early. He led his men with considerable skill and gallantry at the Wilderness and in the Shenandoah. On February 6, 1865, he was killed instantly at Hatcher's Run in the defense of Petersburg. His funeral was conducted from St. Paul's Church, Richmond, where he had been married only three weeks before. Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 231-232; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 629-630.